

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 CU-04 OPR-02 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14

NIC-01 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 231100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6616

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 4403

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASSASSINATION OF NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY LEADER (KOIRALA,
SAROJ PRASAD)

1. INDIAN MEDIA REPORT THAT FORMER NEPALI PARLIAMENTARIAN
(1958-60), NCP CO-FOUNDER AND SELF-EXILED LEADER SAROJ PRASAD
KOIRALA WAS GUNNED DOWN BY UNKNOWN ASSASSINS EVENING OCTOBER
18 IN MADHUBANI (NORTHERN BIHAR).

2. SAROJ PRASAD, ABOUT 43, WAS COUSIN OF NCP LEADER B. P.
KOIRALA, AND ALTHOUGH NOT PROMINENT AMONGST LEADERSHIP REPORTEDLY
FUNCTIONED MORE RECENTLY AS DEPUTY COMMANDER OF ONE OF NCP'S
FORBESGUN TRAINING CAMPS (AFTER HAVING BEEN RELEASED PREMATURELY
FROM 2 YEAR PRISON TERM IMPOSED BY HMG IN OCTOBER 1971).

3. INDIAN ACTING DCM (S.C. PRABHU) TOLD EMBOFF SAROJ PRASAD
WAS "VERY ACTIVE" IN EXILED NCP RANKS. PRABHU ADDED THAT "IT IS
VERY GRIM INDEED IF THEY ARE NOW GOING TO BEGIN KILLING EACH
OTHER" AND VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION THAT IN WAKE OF ASSASSINATION
GOI HAS AUGMENTED "SECURITY PRECAUTIONS" FOR B.P. KOIRALA IN
BENARES. BEYOND THAT PRABHU WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT, BUT HIS
IMPLICIT SUGGESTION WAS THAT KILLING WAS RESULT OF NCP RIVALRIES.

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4. LEADING LOCAL RUMORS ARE: (A) THAT ASSASSINATION WAS ACT OF VENGEANCE BY DACOITS FROM S.P.'S HOME VILLAGE OF JHIJHA (NEAR JANAKPUR IN TERA), WHICH NOTORIOUS AS SANCTUARY FOR DACOITS WHOM S.P. OPPOSED; (B) RESULT OF FALLING OUT AMONG HIJACKERS OF JUNE 10 RNAC FLIGHT IN DISPUTE OVER DIVISION OF LOOT (ACCORDING THIS THESIS, S.P. WAS ONE OF HIJACKING PLANNERS); (C) ACTION OF NCP "MODERATES" WHO WANTED ACCEPT OFFER SUPPOSEDLY TENDERED BY KING BIRENDRA DURING HIS RECENT UTTAR PRADESH VISIT, BUT OPPOSED BY S.P. (AND, REPORTEDLY, B.P. AS WELL, WHO IS SAID TO HAVE RECEIVED THREATS AS RESULT HIS OPPOSITION) THAT NCP EXILES BE GRANTED ONE YEAR AMNESTY AND OPPORTUNITY INTEGRATE THEMSELVES INTO PANCHAYAT SYSTEM.

5. TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, WHO APPARENTLY PLACE BLAME FOR KILLING ON HMG, HAVE REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED CALLING PROTEST STRIKE.

6. COMMENT: LITTLE IS KNOWN TO US OF S.P. AND WE ARE UNABLE EVALUATE RUMORS OR POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS OF HIS ASSASSINATION. CARGO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, PARTY DISSENSION, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KATHMA04403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CARGO
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731017/aaaaampi.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSASSINATION OF NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY LEADER
TAGS: PINS, NP, (SAROJ PRASAD KOIRALA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005